

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 01373 071157Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

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SUBJ: SOMALI REACTION TO US STATEMENT ON SOVIET BASE, AND
US ARMS FOR ETHIOPIA

1. OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE SONNA NEWS BULLETIN SEPT. 7 CARRIED
ITEM ENTITLED "MINISTRY OF INFORMATION REFUTES US PRESIDENT'S
ALLEGATIONS", QUOTED BELOW (NONESSENTIAL WORDS OMITTED). SOMALI
LANGUAGE MEDIA, BOTS PRESS AND RADIO, CARRIED SUBSTANTIALLY
SAME ITEM.

2. QUOTE "MOGADISHO, SEPT 6 -- SPOKESMAN OF MINISTRY OF INFOR-
MATION AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE HAS TODAY STRONGLY REFUTED ALLEGATION
THAT THERE IS SOVIET MILITARY OR NAVAL BASE IN ANY PART OF
TERRITORY OF SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

SPOKESMAN SAID THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT GERALD FORD
HAS BEEN MISINFORMED ON THIS MATTER, AS FAR AS THE EXISTENCE
OF A SOVIET MILITARY OR NAVAL BASE IN SOMALIA IS CONCERNED.

IT IS DESIRABLE THAT THE US PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, AND AMERICAN
PEOPLE GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE MATTER OF BUILDING NAVAL
AND MILITARY INSTALLATION AT DIEGO GARCIA IN INDIAN OCEAN,

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 01373 071157Z

WHICH IS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY COUNTRIES BORDERING INDIAN OCEAN.
DURING SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN

UNITY (OAU) IN SOMALIA'S CAPITAL DURING MONTH OF JUNE, PRESIDENT OF SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, JAALLE MAJOR GENERAL MOHAMED SIYAD BARRE, WHEN ADDRESSING HUNDREDS OF INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS, FROM EUROPE, AMERICA, ASIA AND AFRICA, TOLD THEM THAT FOREIGN MILITARY BASES HAD NEVER EXISTED IN SOMALIA BEFORE, AND THEY WILL NEVER NOW BE ALLOWED TO EXIST IN OUR COUNTRY. PRESIDENT OF THE SRC JAALLE SIYAD, HAD AT THE TIME CHALLENGED THE JOURNALISTS, THAT THEY WERE FREE AND WOULD BE GIVEN ALL NECESSARY FACILITIES TO GO TO ANY PART OF SOMALIA, AND INSPECT WHEREVER A FOREIGN MILITARY BASE IS SUSPECTED TO EXIST. BUT NO JOURNALISTS, AND THEY INCLUDED GREAT MANY WESTERN JOURNALISTS, WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OR TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA AGAINST FREEDOM AND SOVEREIGNTY OF SOMALIA PEOPLE.

THE VOICE OF AMERICA REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON ON AUG 29, 1974 THAT "A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAS CONFIRMED THE WASHINGTON POST'S REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEGUN DELIVERING HEAVY ARMS INCLUDING TANKS TO ETHIOPIA." THIS REPORT ADDED "THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOTED THAT SOMALIA PUBLICLY CLAIMED CERTAIN AREAS IN ETHIOPIA, AND BECAUSE OF THESE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA, THE UNITED STATES WAS MAKING A NEW SHIPMENT OF HEAVY ARMS TO ETHIOPIA."

BUT, SOMALIA, AS IS HISTORICALLY KNOWN, DOES NOT CLAIM CERTAIN AREAS OF ETHIOPIA. WHAT SHE CLAIMS IS SOMALI TERRITORY ANNEXED BY ETHIOPIA, WITH HELP AND ASSISTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM, DURING SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA IN 19TH CENTURY.

SPOKESMAN SAID THAT INTENTIONS OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN SUPPLYING HEAVY ARMS TO ETHIOPIA ARE TO ENDANGER INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY IN HORN OF AFRICA. SONNA" UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: QUOTED ITEM IS FIRST OFFICIAL GSDR REACTION TO SUBJECT IN QUESTION AFTER MORE THAN WEEK OF OFFICIAL SILENCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IRAQ AND PDRY HAVE ALREADY CONTRADICTED US STATEMENT ABOUT SOVIET BASES.
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